

**Minutes of the
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Thursday, May 12, 2011
State Capitol, Room 329
830 Punchbowl Street, Room 310
Honolulu, HI 96813**

Members Present

Joyce Bellino represented by Dale Asami, Geneva Candean, Jonathan Chun, Michael Gleason, Signe Godfrey, Carl Hinson, Al Lardizabal, Steven Lupkes, Harold McDermott, Roland Prieto, Peter Quigley represented by Suzette Robinson, Karl Rhoads, Marcia Taira, Wayne Thom, Jim Tollefson, Marian Tsuji (Lanakila Pacific), Lance Wilhelm, Leslie Wilkins, and Chair Gregg Yamanaka.

Other Attendees

Kathleen Nielsen (HCWIB), Carol Kanayama (DLIR-WDD), Angela Meixell (UH-CTE), Susan Miller (UH-Center on Disability/MIG Grant), Jennifer Svetta (NHCCC), and Al Valles (USDOL/ETA/OA). WDC Staff: James Hardway, Stanford Fichtman, Ruth Caldwell, and Jillian Yasutake.

Call to Order

Chair Gregg Yamanaka called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m.

Public Input on Agenda

There was no public input on the agenda.

Approval of the February 22, 2011 Minutes

The spelling of the name "Davin" was discussed. Then, motion made and seconded to accept the February 22, 2011 minutes as presented with the noted alteration. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Introduction of New Members and Designees

New members were introduced, Marion Tsuji from Lanakila Pacific and Al Lardizabal from Hawaii's Labor Union- Industry Construction. New WDC staff introduced: Ruth Caldwell and Jillian Yasutake.

Review of Reports

a) Individual LWIB Reports

- a. Kauai- Jonathan Chun made a correction to the most recent report, stating the Federal Energy Permit has been successfully contracted, but that Kauai will need many more contracts before it can build hydro-electric facilities on its rivers.
- b. Oahu- no comments
- c. Maui- Roland Prieto stated MWIB has been working hard with providers to address issues, especially concerning youth. The Director is especially working to address Older Youth issues, especially for exiting students. Chair Yamanaka mentioned it is important to find out whether it is a lack of tracking, or a lack of success of the program that is causing the issues. In addition, Chair Yamanaka mentioned that Maui Community College has new grant money for training individuals and may want to connect with one-stop youth.

- d. Hawaii- Many good things are coming from the island's adversity, including: 1) Entrepreneur Expo in June, 2) Workforce Summit May 27th, encouraging employers to hire people with disabilities, 3) currently reviewing youth proposals with a formal selection to be made May 26th, 4) there is continuous engagement and job club opportunities for one-stop participants, 5) the "Going Home" program ensures participants are dual enrolled and encourages collaboration with community resources, 6) still experiencing more enrollments in Younger Youth than Older Youth, 7) SESP Program Agreements, 8) identified some federal grant opportunities and is collaborating with a slaughterhouse employer to provide training for 15 potential employees, and also focusing on encouraging the next generation of farmers, 9) Chair Yamanaka announced that he has been asked to be part of the before mentioned slaughterhouse project, but has requested a delay in participation so as not to jeopardize his position as Chair of the Council.
- b) WDD Staff Report:
 - a. PY allocations with estimates have been sent out, and WDD is asking counties to submit plans based on the estimates. Since Hawaii's unemployment rate is lower than most states, Hawaii receives less federal funds.
 - b. LMI Green Grant purchased training sessions and tools to help staff better serve one-stop customers, and there is now an online portal segregating green jobs, employers, LMI, etc.
 - c. WDD is developing a marketing strategy to help employers and job seekers know about the new green jobs website resource.
 - d. WDD has defined "green industry" broadly as any business that has green elements and functions (including healthcare, agriculture, etc.)
 - e. Carl Hinson discussed the need for hirenet representatives having booths at job fairs so that employers and job seekers will discover the services available. He suggested laptops be brought in so employers and participants can register right there. While WDD has done this in the past and found it more time consuming than productive due to the extensive time it takes individuals to fill in the resume portion of the registration, it was agreed that this idea may need to be revisited.
 - f. Signe Godfrey brought up the idea to contact SHRM and see if they are willing to donate time for classes like resume writing at job fairs.

Presentation: Agriculture Systems, Challenges, and Opportunities by Sylvia Yuen, Dean UH CTAHR

Ms. Yuen started her presentation at 10:30 a.m. Among the items discussed, Ms. Yuen described how there are fewer farmers farming on about the same amount of land, yet even with the population growth, we are spending less on food. She went on to discuss a number of agricultural challenges and opportunities facing Hawaii including: 1) increase in income around the world causes people to want a more western diet with more meat and processed foods, 2) more competition for land, water, and energy, 3) impact on environment with fertilizers and pesticides contaminating water supplies, 4) effects of climate change with some crops no longer able to be grown in native areas, 5) growing cost of production, 6) Hawaii is greatly dependent on imports- what would happen in a disaster?, 7) increasing agriculture in Hawaii by 10% could add more than 2,000 jobs, 8) Hawaii is characterized by smaller and more diverse farms, 9) invasive species, such as pathogens, insects, snakes, and weeds pose a huge threat, and are entering Hawaii at two million times the natural rate. Ms. Yuen went on to describe ways we can improve the agriculture workforce, such as: 1) improve public perception and awareness of the field, 2) develop partnerships and outreach for young people, 3) improve student preparedness, and 4) develop articulated academic programs.

Action Items

1. Creation of a committee to plan and present an Agriculture Skills Panel Forum sponsored by the WDC.

Member Mike Gleason offered to chair such a committee. Motion to create the committee was made by Chung, and seconded by Thom. **Motion passed unanimous.**

Review of Reports (continued):

a) WDC Staff Report

- a. State Energy Sector Partnership (“SESP”)- to be discussed by Signe Godfrey
- b. Healthcare Planning Grant- has four months left
- c. College Access Challenge Grant (“CACG”)- the web portal is still in process
- d. Labor Market Information green grant (“LMI”)
- e. Other updates: 1) staff recently wrote and submitted three grants; however the federal government has pulled two of these grants due to budget constraints. The Native Hawaiian Education grant providing healthcare training to Native Hawaiians is still competing, 2) staff currently working on three new grants: two Educational Opportunity Center grants, and one H1-B Visa grant, 3) Youth report is included in member binders and ready for submission. Staff observed there were most likely failures on the part of local and State due to failures in oversight and failures to provide specific language in rfps which did not specify the population reporting requirements to potential contractors. Counties have made great strides. One of the two Older Youth measures which failed previously, passed in the most recent quarterly report; however, because of failing these two measures for the past 3 years, the federal government will most likely offer technical assistance, so we should be evaluating what type of assistance we should request that will be most helpful, 4) there will be an e-waste recycling program coming out through OCS, 5) the annual report has been published and distributed and is easier to read than previous editions, 6) WIA Formula Funds will be changed soon. There were some drafting errors that work in Hawaii’s favor which could make the WIA funds experience a 40% cut, whereas, if the original intent becomes legislation, there will be a 73% cut. This will effect WDC and DLIR’s ability to administer WIA programs.

Healthcare Skills Panel Update

Carl Hinson described how a \$20M grant submitted by Community Colleges include much healthcare help and explained how the healthcare skill panel meetings are encouraging nurses to streamline what they are doing across all employers. Due to the skill panel meetings, employers and schools are finalizing plans for synchronizing the last three months of training. Mr. Hinson encouraged the software skill panel to continue their momentum.

SESP Steering Committee Update

As of May, SESP has obligated \$5.2M of \$5.5M allowed by grant. The 3-year grant is in its 15th month, and has trained 300 participants thus far, spending \$300k on training. In addition, many green employers have identified a need for customer service training, so Windward Community College has been using SESP funds to develop this course.

Updates on New Grant Applications

- 1) H1-B Visa Grant- four-year, and James Hardway is currently meeting with different WIBs and gaining information about which industries most utilize H1-B Visas.
- 2) Educational Opportunity Center Grant- funded by DOE, this grant would fund positions in the one-stops to assist older youth and adults in using web portals after high school to get help with gaining postsecondary education, including filling out school applications, financial aid applications, etc.
- 3) James Hardway is very active with a Grant Opportunity Committee.

Announcements

-Big Island WIB is willing to help other WIBs become non-profits to have grant writers ready and available as opportunities come up.

-Chair Yamanaka shared his appreciation for the improvements WDC has made since he first came to the council. He stated that having WIBs and James Hardway at the table is a huge improvement. Chair Yamanaka explained that Hawaii does many things that can become National Best Practices (such as our focus on early childhood intervention) and that the WDC is finally becoming a true public and private organization.

-Farewell to outgoing WDC members: Chair Gregg Yamanaka and Signe Godfrey.

Adjournment

With no further announcements, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. by Chair Yamanaka.